From: Marc Greenberg
To: Cynthia Sonich-Mullin; Brian Kovak
Cc: Sharon Osowski; R6 DWH EUL@EPA; R6 DWH REOC ESC@EPA; R6 DWH REOC PSC@EPA; Terry Burton; Erica Canzler; Dana Tulis
Subject: Re: Benzene information
Date: 06/18/2010 11:36 AM

Thanks. I talked to Brian last night. I also have the new address of the NOLA command post for him to put in his GPS:1250 Poydras Street, New Orleans, LA, 70113

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▼ Cynthia Sonich-Mullin---06/18/2010 11:03:58 AM---Thank you for this information. Brian Kovak left for NOLA last night to work on this issue as the le

From: Cynthia Sonich-Mullin/CI/USEPA/US
To: Sharon Osowski/R6/USEPA/US@EPA, Marc Greenberg/ERT/R2/USEPA/US@EPA
Cc: R6 DWH EUL@EPA, R6 DWH REOC ESC@EPA, R6 DWH REOC PSC@EPA, Terry Burton/R6/USEPA/US@EPA, Erica Canzler/DC/USEPA/US@EPA, Dana Tulis/DC/USEPA/US@EPA, Brian Kovak/R3/USEPA/US@EPA
Date: 06/18/2010 11:03 AM
Subject: Re: Benzene information

Thank you for this information.
Brian Kovak left for NOLA last night to work on this issue as the lead. He is trying to get the data and send it to HQ. I will let you know as soon as I find out anything.
I am cc'ing him on this note to keep him informed.
Thanks all,
Cindy

▼ Marc Greenberg---06/18/2010 11:37:11 AM---Cindy, Where are Dana's folks on this (and on their current needs)? Here is what we're working on h

From: Marc Greenberg/ERT/R2/USEPA/US
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Cc: R6 DWH REOC PSC@EPA, R6 DWH EUL@EPA, Terry Burton/R6/USEPA/US@EPA, R6 DWH REOC ESC@EPA
Date: 06/18/2010 11:37 AM

Subject: Benzene information

Cindy,

Where are Dana's folks on this (and on their current needs)? Here is what we're working on here:

- Trying to find out who has the benzene data and where it is housed. We are checking the SCRIBE database BP area to see if we can find any data from the Ocean-Veritas and Brooks-McCall ships;
- We don't know the dates that are in question, but my assumption is yesterday and/or recent days;
- We don't know the form of the measurement (e.g,. Draeger-tube, MultiRAE equipped with benzene-specific sensor, personal monitoring badge like NIOSH 1550). This is an important consideration for decision makers because some data are more quantitatively derived than others;
- I've got Dr. Sharon Osowski and our ORD liaison, Terry Burton working on this. Sharon is the lead for the EU. They are working with the START contractors to mine the database and make calls.

I would not be surprised if BP has not shared any new data. Do you know how our EPA folks came to know of any new data and the values of the benzene hits (i.e., were they shown a printout?, verbal communication?). Maybe this info is coming?

Interestingly, we learned from the reporting out from the Brooks-McCall the following information (although your request was specific to the Ocean-Veritas, I thought this would be good to share). This is today's reporting of data collected on 6/17/2010:

> Cast BM90 was originally planned for 2 km north of Station BM89, but it was abandoned while approaching the site through heavy surface oiling when a single spiked VOC reading was recorded. VOC readings on deck were consistently below 5 ppm. When the VOC meter was held 0.5 m off the water surface, the VOC alarm sounded. The vessel moved from the site and staff were kept inside while further VOC readings were taken. On deck, the readings fluctuated predominantly between 0 and 2 ppm. The Brooks McCall was repositioned 2 km due east of the wellhead for cast BM90. VOC readings on deck at this location were 0 ppm, despite heavy surface oiling.

I think this will help: Note that the R6 EU at an earlier time during the response reviewed some OSHA data from 4/28 thru 5/15/2010. This was personal monitoring data that I believe were badges following NIOSH 1550 (I'm not entirely sure) There were **5 hits for benzene that exceeded the Acute MRL of 29 ug/m3.** The Acute MRL value was developed by ATSDR for EPA's use and assumed a 1-14 day exposure. Keep in mind that BP's screening value apparently was the OSHA PEL of 1 ppm benzene. If we were to convert the EPA preferred Acute MRL value to ppm that value comes to 0.01 ppm. The personal monitoring results were reported as

samples MC252102020, MC252100000, MC252103010, MC252100002, MC252101010; the concentrations of benzene for these samples were reported as "highest concentrations" (ug/m3) and were 180, 59, 150, 85, and 58, respectively.

Please have any responses go to Sharon. She can be reached at 214-665-2106. And, as always, I am available, too.

Thanks,
Marc

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